

Message Text

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ACTION SMI-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7475

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 4826

FOR SMITHSONIAN (SCHMERTZ/WINGFIELD)

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: OSCI YO

SUBJ: SFCP/SMI -JF-4-SMI, "MAMMALS OF THE ADRIATIC ISLANDS AND
ADJACENT MAINLAND OF YUGOSLAVIA"

REF: (A) BELGRADE 4493, (B) STATE A-2997, (C) STATE 146676,
(D) STATE 168107

1 COMPLICATIONS POSED BY CROATIAN AUTHORITIES (REF A) HAVE BEEN RSOLVED, THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY TO SATISFACTION OF U.S. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR CARTER. AMENDMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED. MILITARY ENTRY AND EXIT VISAS AS WELL AS RESEARCH PERMIT HAVE BEEN ISSUED. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CARTER, U.S. SCIENTISTS MUST CONFINE THEIR INVESTIGATIONS TO MAINLAND. YUGOSLAV SCIENTISTS WILL COLLECT ON COASTAL ISLANDS.

2. IN WAKE OF THESE COMPLICATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT DELAYS, FINANCIAL PICTURE IS ALSO CONFUSED: EMBASSY AND FAISECTC RECORDS SHOW THAT 36,512.65 DINARS WERE LEFT IN JOINT FUND U.S. TRAVEL ACCOUNT FOR THIS PROJECT AND ANOTHER 151,585 DINARS WERE APPROVED FOR DISBURSEMENT IN 1976 FROM THE JOINT FUND PROJECT ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, REFS B, C AND D AUTHORIZE DISBURSEMENT OF 140,000 DINARS TO TEXAS TECH AND 56,772 DINARS TO ZAGREB UNIVERSITY PLUS PURCHASE OF AIR TICKETS FOR CARTER, DOLAN AND HERMAN (NOTE: JONES IS NOT COMING, ACCORDING TO CARTER.) OR ABOUT 53,000 DINARS. THUS IS APPEARS THAT SMITHSONIAN HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO
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DISBURSE ABOUT 250,000 DINARS WHILE PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION

FOR ONLY 188,097.65.

3. IN ADDITION, AT URGENT APPEAL OF CARTER, EMBASSY MADE EMERGENCY DISBURSEMENT OF 30,000 DINARS FROM U.S. TRAVEL ACCOUNT TO ENABLE HIM TO PAY HIS EXTENDED HOTEL BILL IN ZAGREB AND TO BEGIN FIELD INVESTIGATION. GIVEN DELAY IN PROCESSING AMENDMENT, THERE WAS NO OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCE OF MONEY.

4. THUS PRESENT STATUS OF ACCOUNT IS THAT AFTER PAYMENT IS MADE TO ZAGREB UNIVERSITY ONLY 94,812.35 DINARS REMAIN IN PROJECT ACCOUNT AND ANOTHER 6,512.65 IN U.S. TRAVEL ACCOUNT.

5. TIME PERMITTING, EMBASSY PREFERS SMITHSONIAN TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF 53,000 DINARS TO U.S. TRAVEL ACCOUNT. OTHERWISE IT PLANS TO DEDUCT THE APPROXIMATELY 53,000 DINARS OWED FOR AIR TRAVEL WHEN IT DISBURSES REMAINING AVAILABLE FUNDS TO U.S. INVESTIGATORS. THEY WILL THUS RECEIVE BETWEEN 41,000 AND 42,000 DINARS. IN ANY CASE, WE RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT THE 6,512.65 DINARS NOW IN THE TRAVEL ACCOUNT BE RESERVED FOR NECESSARY AIR SHIPMENT OF SAMPLES AND THE VIRTUAL CERTAINTY OF UNEXPECTED CONTINGENCIES.

6. REQUEST SMITHSONIAN:

A. CONFIRM OR CORRECT OUR ACCOUNTING PARA 2.

B. AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF FUNDS OR APPROVE ALTERNATE COURSE OF ACTION PER PARA 5 SO WE CAN PROCEED WITH PURCHASE OF TICKET FOR HERMAN.

C. INFORM HERMAN IMMEDIATELY THAT CARTER REQUESTS THAT HE LEAVE AS SOON AS AIR TICKET ARRIVES, HOPEFULLY BEFORE JULY 26. WE SUGGEST HE MAKE RESERVATION IN ADVANCE. (NOTE: WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM BY PHONE).

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